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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 23 | Min 17 | Humidity 67% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 61,663 | Nifty 18,307 | Gold 52,649 | Silver 60,927 | Dollar 81.52 | Euro 84.34 | GBP 96.92

Ambient air pollution primarily from rising vehicular emissions causing health complications among citizens: BU study

EVERY BREATH YOU STAKE...

'Peenya Industrial area, Mysuru Road most polluted with high levels of PM2.5, PM10, SO2, NOx'

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Thanks to the deteriorating air quality of the city, more and more Bengalureans are facing various health issues such as skin allergies, breathing problems, eye irritation and cough, a study conducted by researchers at Bengaluru University has revealed.

The researchers evaluated ambient air quality at seven monitoring stations across the city by measuring parameters such as PM2.5, PM10, SO2 and NOx and interviewed area residents to understand the health impact of these pollutants.

Air quality was measured at Whitefield, Yeshwantpur, Peenya Industrial Area, Mysore Road, KHB Industrial area, Victoria Hospital and Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University.

"We interviewed 60 residents from all seven areas. After the survey, we realised the residents in these areas were facing various health issues due to the increase in ambient air pollution. The majority of the residents we spoke to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"Rapid rise in number of vehicles resulted in increase in traffic, reduced average speed... leading to higher emissions
— Nandini N, professor, BU

Bengaluru sinking in potholes

Citizens point to major pothole-ridden areas as latest deadline passes; just 1-2% filling left, claims BBMP chief

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Another deadline set by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for filling potholes in the city has passed. Meanwhile, citizens pointed out how several areas with potholes have still not been touched by the civic agency.

Last month, BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had said that all the potholes would be filled by November 5. The deadline was later pushed to November 15 by the BBMP. However, still many roads in the city are filled with potholes.

"BBMP has again neglected the inner areas of Bengaluru in its pothole-filling drive. It is a shame that after so many promises and deadlines, people are still suffering. I live 2-3 km away from the Sarakki Lake; the area still has many potholes, waiting to cause a severe accident. In other areas, the potholes have been filled by stone jelly but haven't been smoothened," Ajith S, a resident of JP Nagar, told BM.

Citizens BM spoke to said that some areas in the city have multiple potholes in just a small stretch of road. This makes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Definitive Notes

Daakiya, Bengaluru-based experimental rock band, will be perfoming in the city. With a raw definitive style of vocals and guitar parts along with dynamic parts of groove added to the mix, with a focus on vocal harmonies and sound, leading them into the mainstream music and turning into an own experimental piece.
Where: Indulge by House of Commons No 1, (old 141/37) 24th main 2nd phase JP Nagar Marenahalli Main Road; When: November 25, 8 pm

02 Groove with the music

DJ Paroma is in town. Paroma started off her career as a cabin crew at 18 for a reputed airline, will be performing in the city. That's when she flew internationally for a while and visited a lot of clubs around the world and came across so many different kinds of music. Featured in three TV shows, having done several official remixes for Bollywood, DJ Paroma has come a long way and climbed the ladder of success.
Where: Indulge by House of Commons No 1, (old 141/37) 24th main 2nd phase JP Nagar Marenahalli main road; When: November 26, 8 pm

03 Handloom at reach

An exhibition brings together rural artisans from the eastern part of India featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms; handicrafts such as Odisha tie and dye, dress material and sarees, West Bengal cotton sarees, and many more.
Where: Sri Avani Sringeri Shankar Mutt, West of Chord Road, Mahalakshmipuram Layout (Near Modi Hospital), Basaveshvara Nagar
When: November 15-29, 10 am to 8:30 pm

Stay alright & do not ignore any insect bite

Docs warn of scrub typhus that people tend to ignore as normal skin infection

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Many must be unaware of the disease Scrub Typhus, which is caused by a bite from an insect leading to health conditions such as fever, headache and chills and can even be fatal if untreated. Off late, many people are being afflicted by the scrub typhus disease and tend to ignore it thinking it could be a normal skin infection.

Scrub typhus is a zoonotic disease caused by Rickettsiae zoonoses, which in this case is a mite known as Orientia tsutsugamushi named after where it was originally found, the Tsutsugamushi Triangle. The common symptoms are fever with rash and the bite mark typically known as the eschar.

In one of the recent cases seen by the doctor, a 12-year-old boy had lateral rectus muscle paralysis, which is a very rare presentation in the world. It occurred after the bite of an insect.

"The 12-year-old did not have any symptoms of scrub typhus, but the patient reported to us with vision problems. Upon examination, he was presented with double vision due to the abducens nerve palsy which does not allow the eye to move laterally, also called lateral rectus muscle paralysis without any other symptoms," said Dr. Parimala V Thirumalesh, Sr. Consultant - Neonatology & Paediatrics at Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore.

Scrub typhus is caused by insects such as ticks. The disease manifests around 5-20 days after a person is bitten

She added that only a few cases have been reported across the world with such a presentation.

"He also had disc swelling inside the eye without any meningitis or signs of brain inflammation as confirmed by an magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan of the brain. He has now improved with treatment with doxycycline and is still under follow up," she said. Dr Sudha Menon, Director, Department of Internal Medicine at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road stated that the disease could be fatal if not treated properly.

"Scrub typhus is a rickettsial infection caused by a tick bite. The tick is seen in woods and shrubs. Five to 20 days after the bite, the patient develops high grade fever, headache, body ache, lymph node swelling, fatigue, red eyes and rashes. There may be a bite mark of the tick called eschar. It can cause multi system involvement and may be fatal if not diagnosed and treated appropriately," said Dr Menon.

> **"As Scrub typhus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mite, it is important to protect oneself by wearing long sleeves clothes**
> – Dr NG Kanchan

As many people have been travelling to different states and countries lately, visiting areas with vegetation and bushes has lately led to more cases of scrub typhus. With no vaccinations available to prevent the disease, one should themselves be cautious. According to Dr Thirumalesh, there can be two peaks, one in summer around June, July and one in winter October to November, this is different in different countries because of the climate.

"Basically the mite which bites the humans and transmits the disease causing organism lives on rodents whose spawning rates are higher during those time periods thus causing increase in disease transmission," she explained.

On the precautionary measures that need to be taken, Dr NG Kanchan, Physician and Diabetologist at Specialist Hospital, said, "As Scrub typhus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mite, it is important to protect oneself by wearing long sleeves clothes and using environmentally friendly insecticide and mosquito nets and to avoid woody areas."

Citizens come together to paint the town green

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In order to increase the green cover of their locality, the InnerWheel Clubs of Bangalore (IWCB) came together on Sunday morning to plant 100 bamboo saplings in Sundaravana, Somasundarapalya Lake. More than 50 people including citizen volunteers, members of Rotary HSR, Community Task Force (CTF), and InnerWheel Clubs were present for the plantation drive.

Nandini Anand, President of Inner Wheel Club of Bengaluru HSR, told Bangalore Mirror, "With Rotary and CTF people, we always make sure to put hands for events like these. The aim of this plantation drive was to increase the oxygen level and the green cover in our locality. 13 out of the 41 Inner Wheel Clubs from Bangalore had taken part in the event today."

Bamboo saplings were planted in Sundaravana, Somasundarapalya Lake

"Since the Somasundarapalya lake is there, with more trees it would be a nice area for the residents also," she added.

The urban mini forest is located close to a Karnataka Development Compost Corporation (KCDC) plant. The citizens say that the plantation would also help cover up the stench coming from the compost plant.

Suresh V, a member of the HSR Rotary Club, said "We have about 2 acres of land where we have planted 100 beema bamboo plantation. The main aim is to absorb the carbon dioxide in the air but also, it would cover up the smell coming from the nearby KCDC plant." "This particular species of bamboo have the specialty to absorb more carbon dioxide and it is also rich in oxygen. We called the event 'Bidiru Habba' and it was funded by Rotary InnerWheel and CTF," he added.

Moreover, the volunteers also made sure that it is a zero-waste event.

Lalithamba V, a member of the Community Task Force (CTF), said that the club members and volunteers all made use of reusable cutlery so no waste is generated at the event. "The only waste that was generated was from the plastic bags that all the saplings came in. Apart from that, we made sure that no waste is being generated," she said.

Mind the last-mile gap

BMRCL, BMTC plan to join hands to enable last-mile connectivity; buses will be run to pick passengers up from their apartment complex or office

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Does the long walk to a bus stop deter you from taking public transport? Well, buses may soon come to your doorstep to pick you up; how about that?

To increase last mile connectivity, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) are planning for a tie up so that feeder bus services may be operated near big apartment complexes to pick up and drop passengers.

BMRCL Managing Director Anjum Parwez told BM, "Currently, Metro feeder services operate between the Metro station and the nearby bus stops. BMTC has bought 95 electric buses for feeder service. Though all the buses are not used currently, we can expect all these feeder buses to be operational soon."

Parwez said the BMTC is planning to buy smaller buses too. "The idea is for the BMTC and BMRCL to work in tandem as complimentary service in providing last mile connectivity. We want to create a facility for commuters to reach the Metro stations," Parwez said.

According to Parwez, though this is part of the feeder service, in this case they would identify spots to make the bus stops. "The route will be decided based on how the apartments or offices are distributed so that more people can be picked up from their homes/offices. The commuters will be happy if they can get a bus within 200 to 250 metres from their homes or offices so that they can take long routes via Metro," the BMRCL MD said.

BMTC's Director (Technical) AV Surya Sen added that they were already running 200 metro feeder services but these were not going into deeper catchment roads. "There is a proposal from BMRCL and they have selected some routes and asked us if we can run them additionally. We are in the process of buying small-sized buses for the purpose. These buses will be of six to seven metres in length and can transport 20 to 25 commuters. We have submitted a proposal to DULT and NCAP. We are floating tenders for small sized buses," Sen said.

So far, the BMRCL has given 22 sectors where BMTC can ply. "We have asked the Metro to provide viability gap funding as during the initial days there could be less patronage. This is currently under discussion. Even DULT is coordinating with us on this. DULT has asked us to start feeder service in HSR layout which will be commenced soon," Sen said.

Officials believe last-mile connectivity issue is hampering Metro patronage

'Metro will cover 179 km by 2025'

The Metro network in the city will cover 179 km by 2025, according to Parwez. Parwez said the second and third phases of the project will add 314 km of metro rail connectivity by 2041. He said construction of metro lines is progressing well on the Airport side. However, the biggest challenge for urban mobility is the integration of multi-modal transport systems and to move people to get into public transport. He said bike taxis and car pooling should be encouraged.

Transit-oriented development

Meanwhile, there is a plan for transit oriented development (people living closer to mass transport). On the concept, Parwez said, "It is about giving incentive to the people to come and live closer to the mass transport system like Metro, suburban railways or TTMCs. This means one is closer to the mode of mass transport and this will cut down on unnecessary travel. The development will take place all along the mass transport corridors."

> **"It is about giving incentive to the people to come and live closer to the mass transport system like Metro, suburban railways or TTMCs**
>
> –Anjum Parwez, BMRCL MD

Trapped in web of social media

A young doctor who allegedly used social media as a weapon to denigrate and humiliate his live-in partner and fiancee could not have known that his actions would cost him his life. The case triggered a debate about social media becoming a tool in the hands of individuals to commit crimes.

This is the tragic story of Dr Vikas and Pratibha, an architect, reported in the limits of Begur police station, which shocked Bengaluru. The police investigations

revealed that Vikas did it as he found out that Pratibha was allegedly having an affair, even as her marriage to him was fixed.

In a fit of rage, Pratibha and five of her friends cornered Vikas and beat him up fatally. Vikas later succumbed to injuries.

When asked about the trend of social media becoming a weapon to settle scores often leading to crimes, Belagavi Police Commissioner MB Boralinagaiah told IANS that the trend is picking up and it is going to be a challenge. "I think KYC, which is there on many fronts, should be adopted in social media as well. Any person with some pseudo names will indulge in crimes. The case needs to be looked into in-depth, but at what cost is the question?" Boralingaiah said. There is a need for strict punishment for this. Some data has to be there to track the user, he said.

Psychologist Dr A Sridhara opined that the way relationships are defined by social media in young adults requires more attention and analysis. "It's more of a psychopathic tendency and there is more scope for the media to exaggerate such tendencies. You watch violent movies. You will watch and try to experiment. There is no feeling, there will be no fear," he said. Senior advocate Rajalakshmi Ankalagi said social media has a positive as well as a flip side. "What you choose depends on you. Social media also facilitates many campaigns which get good response," she said. **IANS**

Goods vehicles restricted on Airport Road

The Traffic police have decided to ban the movement of goods vehicles on Airport Road between 8.30 am and 10.30 am every day. Special Commissioner (Traffic) MA Saleem said, "We have been witnessing traffic congestion on airport road. Hence, on an experimental basis, we have decided to prohibit the movement of goods vehicles between Sadahalli gate to Hebbal during the morning peak hours. This ban on vehicular movement will be on an experimental basis for a month."

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What's eating footpaths at Kasavanahalli road?

Citizens wonder if road widening will squeeze the already encroached footpaths further

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Residents are worried that as the roads are being widened, there is a chance that footpaths will be further narrowed down and there won't be any space for the pedestrians

With Comprehensive Road Development work happening on Kasavanahalli Main Road, residents allege that footpaths are being reduced to compensate for land not acquired. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) promises to retain equal priority to the footpath and carriageway. Residents worry that with the roads being widened, footpaths will get compensated. Previously, Bangalore Mirror had reported about commercial shops coming up on roadsides. Road work has been started without removing these constructions which has left the residents worried.

"The Kasavanahalli main road has to widen as per CDP compliance. Certain sections of the road had wide footpaths up to 4 to 6 feet. These footpaths are being reduced to 3 feet to accommodate drains and wide roads. In addition, some drains have been diverted. Even if they widen areas where they fail to acquire land it will turn into choke points," said Vishnu, a resident of the area.

He added that apart from road asphalting, BBMP had not taken up any work in this area for a few years. "We will write a petition to the MLA for proper implementation of the road work" he said.

Another resident, Hemakumar, said, "About 1.5 years ago, Bhoomi pooja was conducted and some 100 metres of drains were constructed. Now that they have restarted the work, officials have made markings on buildings for land acquisition."

According to him, it's not clear whether notices have been issued or not. It's evident that the footpath width has been reduced for road widening. To construct shops, drains were diverted. There's no change in these kinds of constructions in the area.

> **"The road widening has started. We are doing the work in areas where land is available. We are facing some issues with land acquisition**
>
> – BBMP official

"We tried bringing this up in ward committee meetings but concerned engineers were not present," he said. With other encroachments on the footpath and reduction of its width, pedestrians fear a future when senior citizens and children will be forced to use roads for walking.

However, a senior BBMP official told Bangalore Mirror that officials have assured that equal priority will be given to footpaths as well as to the carriageway.

"The road widening process has started. We are doing the work in areas where land is available. We are facing some issues with land acquisition. But as a temporary measure to maintain an equal carriageway, the remaining portion is being assigned for footpaths," he said.

This is the pits, 'stop dumping waste'

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After Bangalore Mirror reported on dumping of garbage in pits behind the Hoskote lake, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) visited the site for inspection and will shortly send out a notice to the panchayat to stop the dumping and close down the pits.

After Bangalore Mirror's November 19 story 'Save one, distress another', the officials visited the layout and saw some of the garbage lying in the pits. The KSPCB deputy environmental officer of Mahadevapura zone assured the citizens that actions will be taken.

Bangalore Mirror
Save one, distress another?

BM had reported on November 19 about the pits being dug in the area to dump garbage

An officer told BM, "We visited the site on Saturday and since it was the weekend, we didn't issue a notice. On Monday, we will issue a notice to the Mandur gram panchayat to stop further dumping of garbage and close down the pits."

Meanwhile, the citizens also raised complaints to the KSPCB, by sending out an email to the Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) to clear out the polluted stretch at the lake. The complaint was acknowledged and the deputy environmental officer thereafter came for the spot inspection.

"The KSPCB and ICCC team along with the Mahadevapura regional office team responded within a very short period of time, after we complained about protecting Hoskote lake and attached the BMs article to it. Officials came in and assured the citizens," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a lake activist.

He added that this is the first time people have received a quick response by the officials. Or most of the department tends to ignore it or take their own time to come. "The lakes are water commons in an urban space, protection of these water commons is the responsibility of the state. Concerned officials should take necessary actions to end dumping in lakes," he said. Meanwhile, the residents said that for the past two days the dumping of garbage in the pits has been stopped. However, now the garbage is not being collected from the residents' houses.

"We are told that the panchayat does not have any place to send the garbage for disposal and hence they will not collect garbage from the KHB Layout. We have been tying bags and keeping them outside for the compactors to collect them, but the waste is not being collected and citizens are just storing it in houses," said a resident.

> **"We cannot just throw the garbage in and around the locality just because it's not collected. We are storing it in our houses for now**
>
> – Resident of the area

He added, "While we were happy the lake could be saved by stopping by garbage dumping. But now there is another problem, where our garbage is not collected.

Another resident said, "We complained to the Karnataka Housing Board commission as well and they assured us to take the necessary action. Now we are just waiting for something positive to happen. We cannot just throw the garbage in and around the locality just because it's not collected. We are storing it in our houses, until the garbage collection begins again."

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"The Management is Not Responsible for Theft or Loss of Money and Valuables"

Toilets charging Rs 10 near church stop at Ramamurthy Nagar in KR Puram. BBMP isn't bothered.

Trap hole

Kamaraj Road

Some of the potholes near Shivaji Nagar and at Kamraj Road are veritable death traps for two-wheeler riders.

The last drop

Thurahall

A lot of precious Cauvery water is being wasted due to leakage on alternate days near Veeranjaneya Road, 2nd Main, 1st cross Thurahalli.

BDA chief promises to deliver on KG Layout promise

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Is there hope at the end of the tunnel for those who bought residential sites and are contemplating to construct homes at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout? If you go by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Commissioner's assurance there is hope indeed as he has assured all that the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout will be developed on par with Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout.

It is said that BDA Commissioner G Kumar Naik gave a commitment to the Assembly Petition Committee that he would review the progress periodically on the lines of Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout with both engineering and land acquisition sections of the BDA.

The Assembly Petition Committee interim chairman S Suresh Kumar and its members met on Thursday to discuss two main issues: lack of infrastructure at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and the inordinate delay in the proposed transfer of Bandemath Layout from the Karnataka Housing Board to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Kumar Naik, Engineering member HS Shantharajanna and other committee members were present. A decision was taken to complete the acquisition of 1,400 acres of land for the layout on a priority basis.

It was also decided to have an exclusive board meeting to clear all pending approvals for the developmental works at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

It is said the BDA commissioner assured the panel that he would review progress of land acquisition and infrastructure works at the layout. It also said that the BDA Commissioner assured that he would submit the report to the Assembly Petitions Committee on the progress of land acquisition and infrastructure works one in 15 days.

Assembly Petitions Committee interim chairman S Suresh Kumar told BM that the BDA Commissioner is convinced that there has been an inordinate delay in ensuring basic amenities and infrastructure in place at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. "The BDA Commissioner has assured us that he would submit the report once in 15 days to the committee," said Suresh Kumar.

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum spokesperson Surya Kiran said he is positive about the commitment given by the BDA Commissioner. "The BDA Commissioner has promised to review the progress of developmental works on a weekly basis. I am hopeful the BDA will take up developmental works and complete the land acquisition," said Surya Kiran.

Santosh Patil, who bought a site at the layout six years ago, demanded that the BDA complete the work. Varun GP, who bought a site at the layout in a public auction, urged the BDA to complete land acquisition.

BU campus rent rate to be revised: Tenant universities to pay more

University plans to charge ₹50,000 as rent/acre for institutes; some paying as low as ₹1 now

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It's the time for spike in rents for property across the city. So why should Bangalore University (BU) be left behind? The university has decided to hike the rent of the property leased out to various organisations/institutes. The BU has issued a diktat to these institutes stating that from December 1, it will charge a rent of Rs 50,000 per acre per year. Surprisingly, many of the institutes were paying just Re 1 rent per acre till now.

The circular (a copy available with Bangalore Mirror) states, "The Bangalore University Syndicate (highest decision making body) had recently decided to enhance the rent for land leased to Rs 50,000 per acre per year with 10% hike in the rent for every year thereafter. This will be applicable to all the properties leased in Jnanabharati campus. The heads of the institutions/organisations have been asked to pay the revised rent and submit a copy of the receipts to the BU. There are many institutes who are yet to enter into a lease and for such institutions; a fresh lease agreement has to be done. Further, the institutions have been told to enter the rectification deed for the enhanced rent and the same should be registered at the sub-registrar's office."

"A top organisation pays just Re 1 as rent a year. Another organisation pays Rs 90 as rent. When we look at this institutions' working model, they are charging hefty sums as fee

BU Registrar Mahesh Babu N told BM, "We need to improve the finances of the university as revenues have dipped sharply. Over the years, BU has been losing a lot of affiliated colleges with the creation of the universities. When Tumkur University was formed, many colleges were moved to the neighbouring varsity. Then, we had Bengaluru North and Central universities. In February next, UVCE will move out of BU. So, we need to find revenue as otherwise we are largely dependent on the State Government for funds."

Babu said that many institutes/organisations leased with BU were paying peanuts as rent and this had to be revised by next month. "Can you believe it? A top organisation pays just Re 1 as rent a year. Another organisation pays Rs 90 as rent. When we look at this organisation/institution's working model, they are charging hefty sums as fee. However, they are not showing the same generosity while paying rent. Hence, we want to claim our share. Currently, our expenditure is pegged at Rs 130 crore annually."

BU is spread across 1,200 acres and has leased land to around 30 institutions/organisations. Babu said, "Many institutes have not renewed their lease while a few are yet to get into an agreement. So, we want to streamline the rent agreement. We have decided not to take the rent revision retrospectively but will ask the institutes to pay from next month."

So, how did BU arrive at the rent of Rs 50,000 per acre? Babu said that recently the State Government had fixed the rent as Rs 50,000 per acre while leasing out land to an institute. Hence, the BU decided to follow the government model to fix the rent.

Reacting to this, Suresh Gowda, an activist, said, "It is time for the State Government to come up with a formula to charge the revised rent for the institutes/organisations that have come up on the government land. The State Government and BBMP have been leasing out land and have been receiving pittance as rent. While many organisations which have got lease are earning revenues, the BBMP and Bangalore University are in a bad financial shape. So, it is high time that rents are revised so that these cash strapped bodies can also have a source of revenue."

Voter data theft: App developer arrested

The person who developed the 'Digital Sameeksha' app has been arrested, police said on Sunday. The app was allegedly used for taking voter data illegally. The arrest was made on Sunday, just a day after the police arrested Dharanesh, human resource official of the NGO Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust. Along with him, Renuka Prasad, one of the directors of the trust was also arrested. Ravi Kumar, one of the founder-directors, is still absconding.

The police have raided the office of the NGO and seized evidence related to the app. The case was filed with Halasuru Gate police by BBMP special commissioner (administration and elections), S Rangappa.

The case is registered under Section 406, 419, 420 and 468 of the Indian Penal code. **BMB**

Cheating gamblers arrested

Yeshwanthpur police have arrested a gang of gamblers for using special lenses to cheat. The accused have been identified as Mahesh and Meghnath.

"The accused had put a lens in their eyes which scans the cards of the person sitting in front of them. An electronic chip is placed in the cards. Scanning the card with the lens will give you all the information," said the police.

Police also added that this is on a rise in clubs and other gambling areas of the city. "Many people lose a lot of money because of this trap," said the police. **BMB**

'Air-raising' situation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

suffered from eye irritation, followed by cough, breathing problems and skin allergies," said Nandini N, professor, department of Environmental Science, Bengaluru University

According to the researchers, although emissions from industrial establishments, burning of garbage, and biodegradation contribute to worsening air quality, the major cause of Bengaluru's air pollution is the vehicular emissions.

"The rapid growth in the number of vehicles in the city continues to be a concern. It has resulted in an increase in traffic and reduced average speed of vehicles leading to higher emissions. The obstruction to windspeed by multi-storeyed buildings also hinders the dispersion of air pollutants leading to their high concentration over the city and causing various health effects," added Nandini.

As a part of the study, air quality was monitored for eight hours in each aforesaid location during pre-monsoon, monsoon, post-monsoon and winter seasons back in 2019.

While the Peenya Industrial area and Mysuru Road turned out to be the most polluted areas with a higher concentration of PM2.5, PM10, SO2 and NOx, Jnana Bharathi campus had the lowest concentration.

Experts also said various factors are at play leading to this outcome.

"The pollutants, especially PM2.5 and PM10 are found in higher concentration in places with industrial and vehicular emissions along with rapid urbanisation. These values are high at traffic junctions too due to vehicular congestion. Since the Jnana Bharati campus is free of these factors, concentrations of these pollutants were found to be minimum. Moreover, the campus also has carbon-sinking potential in the form of green cover. We have a thick mini forest that acts as a control station and sinks 64 tonnes of carbon per hectare annually," the researcher said.

A better understanding of the harmful effects of air pollution on health can help create better strategies to cope with deteriorating air quality, according to researchers. While the government and other agencies are putting in a lot of effort in bringing down vehicular and other forms of emission, more awareness is the need of the hour, they said.

"The government has already imposed strict traffic regulations like vehicle seizures, and heavy penalties for violation of traffic rules. Public should have awareness, and commitment towards maintaining a healthy environment for a sustainable future. Public transport can provide the much-needed respite from these pollutants," professor Nandini told BM.

Ups and downs on Thubarahalli's roads

| Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Thubarahalli are upset about the pathetic road conditions in the area. They say that they often face traffic congestion, making commuting a difficult task for them.

Residents BM spoke to complain that the road leading to Baiyappanahalli is riddled with potholes, making it very risky for two-wheeler riders. Anuj Kumar, a resident of the area, said, "During peak hours, a lot of people travel through this road. Due to the potholes, people cannot go fast, leading to traffic congestion. Riders are also scared to take turns."

The residents say that construction work happening nearby is further congesting the road. Rajiv M, another resident of the area, said, "The ongoing construction work happening around the road has further added to our problems. The road has become narrower, and traffic congestion has increased. The road leads to the metro, hence a lot of people use it."

The residents also mentioned that in October, two accidents took place in the vicinity. Despite that, no action was taken by the authorities.

Ashok Jadhav, another resident of the area, said, "The road is already bad, and rash riding of two-wheelers add to commuters' woes. While driving my car, I noticed that all the two-wheelers want to overtake."

The pedestrians in the area say that the roads are not safe for them either. Riya Jain, a resident of the area, said, "There is always a lingering risk of getting knocked down by a two-wheeler as the roads are so narrow and full of potholes. At night, it is more dangerous"

Soundarya Gowda, another resident, said that any spell of rain further deteriorates matters. "The BBMP should make the roads in such a way that once they have finished the work, it does not come apart," Gowda said.

Post-deadline pothole fiasco

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

driving through these roads extremely inconvenient for commuters — even after several complaints, no action has been taken by the BBMP, they said.

"Around Vajarahalli, there are more than 50 potholes that have been neglected. Even if you go to prime locations in the city such as Koramangala or Indiranagar, one can spot several potholes. In places where the BBMP has taken up repairs, the work has been done in such a shoddy manner that the situation might become worse after a few downpours," said Vijesh, another resident.

"The authorities do not care about how many accidents occur daily because of these potholes. Unless you are a regular driver, it is almost impossible to manoeuvre some of the roads in the city. Even after so many deadlines and work being taken up on priority, the roads still seem to be in the same condition," he added.

On the other hand, the BBMP claimed the majority of the potholes in the city have been filled except just 1-2%. Chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath told Bangalore Mirror that close to 98% of the surveyed potholes have been covered by the civic agency.

"The remaining 1-2% will also be filled soon. We are waiting for the certification. We are surveying and will get the data soon; the majority of the potholes have been covered," he said.

"Some roads do not fall under BBMP's jurisdiction; for example, the road near Vidhana Soudha is under the Public Works Department, but pressure is on the BBMP. A few roads might be under BMRCL or BDA. We are ensuring that everything under our jurisdiction has been covered," he added.

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Rejuvenation of Bellandur, Varthur Lakes nowhere near completion

Deadlines come and go, but encroachment, under-utilisation of STPs continue at both lakes

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur Lakes began with much fanfare around 20 months ago but the work is progressing at a snail's pace and there is no guarantee that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will complete the rejuvenation work in the near future though even the revised deadline has come and gone.

The BDA is the custodian of the Bellandur and Varthur Lakes and it was supposed to complete the rejuvenation work by May 2022. National Green Tribunal (NGT) Committee members, Bellandur and Varthur Lake Rejuvenation Initiative have expressed disappointment and displeasure over the slow progress of rejuvenation of the water bodies.

The committee members made the following observations such as under utilisation of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and all the sewage being let into storm water drains. The other observation is that there is no improvement in water quality although the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) had submitted before the court to stop and treat sewage in the KC valley by March 31, 2021.

The committee members also observed that there is no action on illegal pipeline bisecting the lake by the Minor Irrigation Department and garbage being dumped around storm water drains upstream of Bellandur and Varthur lakes. They have also noticed encroachments on storm water drains and lake peripherals including buffer zone violations continue unabated. It gave instructions to the BDA to expedite the desilting of water bodies as it is progressing at a snail's pace.

Prof. TV Ramachandra of Bellandur and Varthur Lake Rejuvenation Initiative told Bangalore Mirror that no progress has been made on eviction of illegal slums inside the lake bed and buffer zones.

"I am of the opinion that the authorities concerned are not taking measures to vacate the stay order against eviction of people residing at Ambedkar Slum that came up on the buffer zone of Bellandur Lake. During the visit, I found some illegal structures on the buffer zone and reducing the width of storm water drains," Prof. Ramachandra said, adding that he was not happy with the progress of rejuvenation work.

Heaps of waste dumped in Bellandur lake had blocked one of its outlets, causing flooding just months ago

> **The authorities did not honour even a single obligation. No concrete measures are taken since 2019 to implement NGT committee's recommendations**
>
> –Jagadeesh Reddy, Varthur Rising

Coming down heavily on the negligence of BDA and other government departments, Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising said that the authorities concerned are not following the guidelines and directions from the National Green Tribunal, High Court and Supreme Court. "I am of the opinion that court orders do not apply here. The civic authorities did not honour even a single obligation. No concrete measures are taken to implement NGT Committee recommendations since 2019 by the authorities concerned," said Reddy.

Meanwhile, Ashok Mruthyunjaya of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said the authorities concerned should ensure all facilities at the flats given to Ambedkar Nagar slum. "The authorities must clear all encroachments on the buffer zone around Bellandur Lake. I came to know that there are no basic amenities at the flats allotted to the residents of Amedkar Nagar slum. Let the authorities provide all amenities at the allotted flats before evicting them from their homes," said Mruthyunjaya.

Meanwhile, Elangovan Kulandaivelu of Whitefield Rising said the effectiveness of BWSSB sewage treatment plants (STPs) is nowhere near where it needs to be and all sewage is not reaching the STPs, leading to underutilisation of the STPs' capacity.

"The groundwater in Kolar/Chikkaballapur district apparently has extremely high levels of ecoli due to the STP output from BWSSB K&C STPs being nowhere near where it needs to be in terms of water quality," said Elangovan.

He said that buffer zone violations should be reversed and encroachments should be removed. He said that non removal of pipes in the lakebed and across the storm water drain, laid by minor irrigation is hindering water flow.

"There is a need to evict slums encroaching lake bed/buffer zone. Of 51 cameras, only five on Bellandur-Yemalur Road are working. Of 194 street lights, only 80 are working. Bellandur, Sunlight, ST bed area in complete darkness. It makes patrolling difficult. The Watch Tower is still not ready even after three years," he said.

Mangaluru blast: Did speedbreaker prevent a tragedy?

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Did a road hump prevent a major tragedy in Mangaluru? Sources say that a pressure cooker blast that took place in Mangaluru was triggered earlier than it should have due to a road hump! Sources said that a bomb was allegedly being taken in an auto. As the auto was speeding away, it hit a hump and there could have been an accidental trigger of the bomb. Police suspect that the bomb could have been in transit to a crowded place for maximum intensity but had an ill-timed blast.

Meanwhile, the explosion in a moving autorickshaw in Mangaluru was an 'act of terror,' Karnataka Director General of Police, Praveen Sood said. In a tweet, the DGP said, "It's confirmed now. The blast is not accidental but an ACT OF TERROR with intention to cause serious damage. State Police is probing deep into it along with central agencies."

> **Police suspect bomb was being taken in the auto to a more crowded place but it exploded earlier than planned**

The blast occurred on Saturday evening inside an autorickshaw, near a police station, leaving the passenger and the driver injured. Both have been admitted to the hospital. State Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said those injured in the blast were being provided good treatment. They are not in a position to speak. "The information we received shows that there is a deep conspiracy behind the incident. It is visible that the perpetrators had a link with the terrorist organisations," he said in a statement.

He added that the state police is in touch with the central agencies and in a day or two the all the details will come out. According to police, a cooker fitted with a detonator, wires and batteries were used to trigger the blast. After the explosion, the interiors of the auto were damaged. They also suspect it could be a failed suicide bombing attempt to cause maximum damage. The blast in Mangaluru bears resemblance to the car explosion in Coimbatore, they said.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Tuber lessons

Tubers are good for health but not all tubers are edible. Revenue Minister R Ashoka recently got lessons from tribals as to which tubers can be eaten and how. Ashoka, during his village stay programme, had chosen a tribal hamlet in HD Kote taluk of Mysuru.

At breakfast, the locals bought a variety of tubers for the Minister to feast on. The Minister feigned ignorance about the benefits of many tubers on the platter. The villagers took the time to explain to him the benefits of each tuber and how it should be consumed!

Slip of tongue

Former Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara tried to rectify a statement made by former CM Siddaramaiah. Recently, the Congress party had a press conference alleging malpractice in voter verification. As soon as the press conference was over, the former CM was heard saying that there was a need to send an FIR to the police. Parameshwara who was sitting near Siddaramaiah, corrected him saying, "We need to lodge a police complaint and it is the police's duty to file FIR." Realising his mistake, Siddaramaiah held Parameshwara's hand and said, "Yes, you are right. It was a slip of tongue on my part."

Veg breakfast

JD(S) state unit president CM Ibrahim had to ask his staff to prepare fresh breakfast as former CM and JD(S) leader HD Kumarswamy had visited his house on November 14. Ibrahim told the media, "We had already prepared breakfast but then HDK arrived. We know very well that HDK prefers only vegetarian food on Kartika maasa's Monday. So, we got a veg breakfast made for the former CM."

Shift tigers

There has been an intense debate going on over the declaration of MM hills forest as a tiger reserve. The politicians are opposing this. When journos asked Hanur MLA R Narendra what his solution to the stalemate was, he shot back, "If you declare it as a tiger reserve, then you have to shift lakhs of people. So, instead of shifting, why can't we shift 12 to 15 tigers which are in the forests? It will definitely be an easier job." You can only imagine what the environmentalists would have to say about this idea.

–Sridhar Vivan

Mamata to meet Modi
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the chief ministers' meeting in Delhi on December 5, an official said

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UN CLIMATE SUMMIT

Compensation deal: India hails decision

Decision to establish fund to address loss and damage at UN climate summit welcome; will prove 'warning to polluters'

#New Delhi

As the UN climate summit in Egypt on Sunday created history by deciding to establish a fund to address loss and damage, experts in India welcomed it as a testament to the tenacity of climate vulnerable countries and a warning shot to polluters that they can no longer go scot-free with their climate destruction.

India engaged constructively and actively on the subject of loss and damage, which refers to destruction caused by climate change-induced disasters, during the course of discussions at COP27.

The decision was approved at the COP27 closing plenary that started around 7:45 am (India time) after negotiators debated the updated drafts of the deal throughout the night.

The success of the talks hinged on a fund to address loss and damage fund, which was proposed by the G77 and China (India is part of this group), least developed countries and small island states. Vulnerable countries had said that they would not leave COP27 without a loss and damage finance facility.

Financing or a new fund to deal with loss and damage -- for example money needed for relocating people displaced by floods -- was a long-pending demand of poor and developing countries, including India.

Developed nations, particularly the US, had opposed this new fund over fears that it would hold them legally liable for massive damages caused by climate change.

"History was made today at #COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh as parties agreed to the establishment of a long-awaited loss and damage fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change," the official twitter handle of the UN climate summit in Egypt posted.

Arid land that has been prepared for cultivation is seen in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh in this file photo

UN Secretary General António Guterres said COP27 has taken an important step towards justice.

"I welcome the decision to establish a loss and damage fund and to operationalize it in the coming period. Clearly this will not be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust," he tweeted.

Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Fellow, Council on Energy Environment and Water, said: "The hope that was raised on the first day of COP with inclusion of loss and damage in the agenda without any resistance from the developed world delivered at least partial success by the end of COP. While the new funding arrangement for supporting developing countries on the issue of loss and damage is welcome, who will pay for it is drowned into the choppy water of definitions, mechanisms, and most importantly; developed countries versus major economies."

Ulka Kelkar, Director, Climate Program, WRI India, said the new loss and damage fund is a testament to the perseverance and tenacity of climate vulnerable countries and civil society groups.

Tarun Gopalakrishnan, Junior Research Fellow, Fletcher School, Tufts University, said: "India rightly showed solidarity with the clear ask for a loss and damage fund coming into COP, even if India is unlikely to be the primary beneficiary of that."

"This COP will be remembered for the agreement to create a loss and damage fund; which speaks to the scale of the climate crisis we are in," said Aarti Khosla, Director, Climate Trends.

"With the creation of a new #LossAndDamage Fund, COP27 has sent a warning shot to polluters that they can no longer go scot-free with their climate destruction," Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at Climate Action Network International, tweeted.

"From now on, they will have to pay up for the damages they cause and are accountable to the people who are facing supercharged storms, devastating floods and rising seas," he said. – PTI

WEF looks at solutions from India for speedy decarbonisation

#New Delhi

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is looking at solutions from India to help accelerate decarbonisation worldwide as the focus is to try and bring the best practices from wherever they are to everyone else, according to a senior executive.

"What India has done with the acceleration of renewables, deployment of new renewables is quite outstanding. If I am not mistaken, the numbers are saying that your demand has grown but you have decoupled the demand for energy from the demand for coal. That is a very important element," WEF's Roberto Bocca told PTI here.

Bocca is a Member of the WEF's Executive Committee and the Head of Shaping the Future of Energy and Materials.

Regarding India, the forum is working on the demand side as well as on cities, transportation and industrial demand. "This transition will not happen just because (of the shift) from fossil fuels to renewables, it will also happen out of efficiency," he noted.

When asked whether the forum is looking at solutions from India to help accelerate decarbonisation worldwide, he replied in the affirmative.

Green hydrogen on the horizon

"Absolutely... We are also looking at what some of the companies (in India) are doing on green hydrogen, (especially) the approach you have taken as a country to put green hydrogen at the centre of the future... India is a fertile ground for innovation," he said.

"... we have about 200 case studies from around the world and we want to bring them to India and at the same time we want to have business cases from India," Bocca said.

In its report 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2022' released in May this year, WEF said the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and collateral turmoil in the energy markets make clear the need for the global energy transition to simultaneously address the imperatives of economic development and growth, energy security and access, and environmental sustainability.

The flags of United Nations member states during the COP27 climate conference at the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre, in Egypt

"The current context highlights trade-offs inherent in the energy transition, which are complicated by the energy sector's structure, socio-economic role and geopolitical significance," it said.

Huge investments needed

Huge investments would be needed for energy transition, that is moving towards decarbonisation or reducing carbon emissions.

"Our analysis is that we need seven times the investment we are having today in a market like India to be able to deliver this (energy) transition... you need to have more money," Bocca said.

Further, he said the energy security element combined with climate really requires acceleration, and that will also be a good way of creating new jobs.

There is an energy crisis now. In the context of energy transition, it is not only decarbonisation which is an important element but it is also about energy security and energy affordability, he noted.

No energy system will be successful if it does not deliver to the three dimensions -- sustainability, security and affordability -- to sustain economic growth, Bocca added. – PTI

Musk gleeful as Twitter users vote on reinstating Trump

#San Francisco

Elon Musk expressed excitement Saturday as he watched votes pour in on a Twitter poll he has posted on whether to readmit Donald Trump to the messaging platform.

"Reinstate former President Trump," the billionaire Twitter owner posted Friday, with a chance to vote either yes or no.

As of 2200 GMT Saturday, 51.8 percent of the more than 14 million responses were in favor of a return of the former president, who was banned from Twitter for his role in last year's attack on the US Capitol by a mob of his followers seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

WORLD

Musk said the poll was drawing one million answers per hour.

"Fascinating to watch Twitter Trump poll!" Musk said Saturday morning in a blast of tweets from the controversial and hard-charging new owner of the one-to-many messaging platform.

Elon Musk (L) started a poll on Twitter to check if people want Donald Trump back on platform

There was no indication that the mercurial boss of Space-X and Tesla would adhere to the results of the ad hoc poll. But on Friday, Musk also posted a Latin adage suggesting that the decision would be up to Twitter users: "Vox Populi, Vox Dei" ("The voice of the people is the voice of God"). He has done similar polls in the past, asking followers last year if he should sell stock in his electric car company Tesla. Following that poll, he sold more than $1 billion in shares. Trump, who reveled in using Twitter as a mouthpiece, was followed by more than 88 million users.

He has said he will not return to the popular platform but would instead remain on his own network, Truth Social. – AFP

HEALTH TIP: Severe dehydration can be life threatening, but mild dehydration can cause issues ranging from headaches and digestive problems to lapses in concentration

Fresh bay leaves are rich in vitamin C, which is a powerful natural antioxidant that helps remove harmful free radicals from the body

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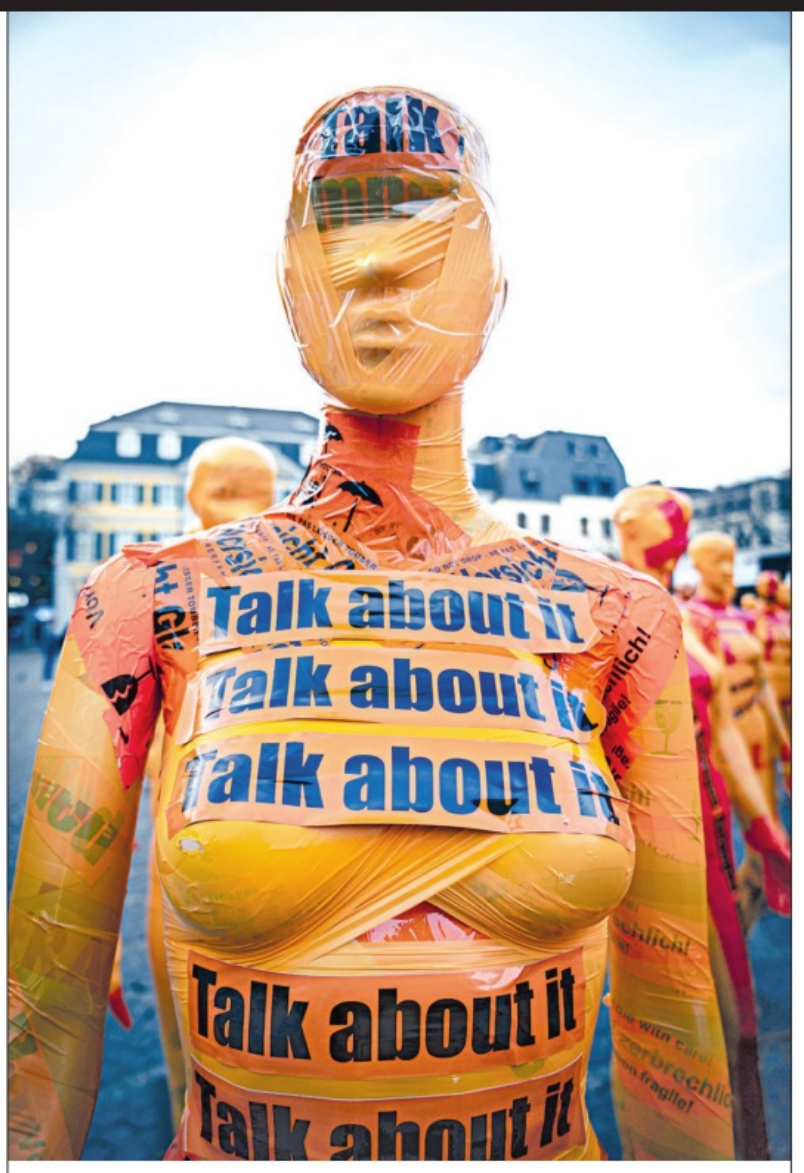
You're not alone

Experts stress on need to seek help, speak up if one is caught in abusive relationship



The new year is just around the corner and as we all gear up to enter 2023, the brutality in the air is impeding our high hopes.

Phrases like 'love is blind', 'all's fair in love and war', 'love makes the world go round' etc. seem to take a bad turn these days, costing us innocent lives.

Looking back, there has been a surge in murders that were motivated by romantic relationships. Now, the appalling and blood-curdling killing of partners in India -- Shraddha Walker in Delhi, Shipra Jharia in MP, Krutika Baranda in Gujarat, Anitha in AP, Rukhsar in UP, and more -- have caused fear among people.

With people now learning to speak up and take strong decisions, a few seem to have a problem with it. However, a controlling mindset, strong patriarchal setup, substance abuse, financial issues, suspected infidelity, etc. are some of the most common reasons found in these cases. We talk to experts to know more.

It would be difficult to put a number to the number of cases that are seen every day. We come across new murder cases every day, but those are cases that are being reported. What about the ones not getting reported? Domestic abuse is grossly underreported and the rates are much higher than seen in usual practice.

"According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS), approximately 30 per cent of women between the age of 18 and 49 years have had to face such abuse.

"In my clinical practice, domestic abuse is seen in 3-4 couples per week," said Paramjeet Singh, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, PSRI Hospital, New Delhi.

There could be several reasons that drive the perpetrators to take such gruesome steps and it all starts with being mildly violent at home. The reason, however, can be very diverse for these people who find themselves in this situation. It may not involve a real rational reason as well a lot of times.

Instead of trying to resolve or work through problems or situations that they find themselves in with more healthy adaptive behaviours, they tend to have a more aggressive approach.

"Having or being in a relationship where there is infidelity, financial concerns, concerns which happened at the level of the larger family or an individual that you are with could have temperament or personality issues," said Kamna Chibber, Head of Department, Mental Health & Behavioural Sciences, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram.

"However, what has been found common in the victims is their tendency to keep quiet, seeing this as socially acceptable, submissive traits, financially and emotionally dependent, poor support from paternal family, etc.," added Singh.

Domestic abuse is seen in all strata, educational and social backgrounds. It is a rampant problem and can be happening around us without us being aware.

It is only rarely that the abuser ever stops abusing. Jaya Sukul, Clinical Psychologist, Marengo QRG Hospital, Faridabad, said that the form and degree of abuse changes but doesn't entirely stop in most cases. It could vary from person to person. The abuser needs to work actively and have the willingness and motivation to get rid of one's abusive behaviour.

"The individual should be willing to work with an expert in order to be able to determine what could be the ways forward," Chibber said.

She said that for a victim, it is extremely important to try and look at whatever is the earliest stage at which she can start seeking help.

Talking and sharing experiences are very crucial. Ensuring that they do not end up allowing themselves to submit when they see their personal space or boundary is getting breached is important.

They should not try and believe that there's something that they have done, which is causing this kind of behaviour or this kind of action.

"Do not allow yourself to believe that this is something which will change on its own, that maybe this was just a one-off if you see that there is a pattern emerging. Don't ignore that pattern. If your partner is not someone who is willing to work on his bad side, seek support for your own self," Chibber said.

It is for the betterment if we talk more and more about these things and spread awareness. Reaching out and sharing your support with someone you think might be a victim of domestic abuse, and being active in encouraging them to be able to stand up for themselves becomes important. Also, a lot of these things need to start at a very early age.

Working with children and adolescents within schools and colleges becomes extremely important because that is where a lot of shaping is happening.

"Talking about the consequences and bringing about changes even in how the justice system tends to function so that more and more people become aware of what is going to be the consequence of having committed a certain crime or having acted in a certain way becomes really important," Chibber concluded.

-IANS

MIRRORLIGHTS

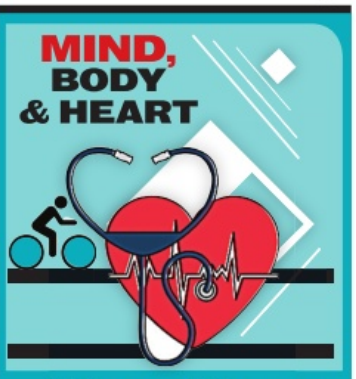
Honey, it's good for the heart

Researchers from the University of Toronto have discovered that honey, particularly if it is raw and originates from a single floral source, can improve critical cardiometabolic health indicators including blood sugar and cholesterol levels.

The findings were published in the journal Nutrition Reviews.

The researchers conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical trials on honey, and found that it lowered fasting blood glucose, total and LDL or 'bad' cholesterol, triglycerides, and a marker of fatty liver disease; it also increased HDL or 'good' cholesterol, and some markers of inflammation.

"These results are surprising, because honey is about 80 per cent sugar," said Tauseef Khan, a senior researcher on the study and a research associate in nutritional sciences at U of T's Temerty Faculty of Medicine. "But honey is also a complex composition of common and rare sugars, proteins, organic acids and other bioactive compounds that very likely have health benefits." -ANI



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a 15-year-old girl and I'm bisexual. A while ago, I came out to my older brother, who I trust more than anyone in my family. My family is very religious, so I know I can't just tell them all that I'm not straight. When I came out to my brother, I was so nervous and he said something I didn't expect - that it was all just a phase. He said I'm probably just following a trend, since I also have good friends who are bisexual or lesbians, and many celebrities are coming out. He told me that since I'm still a teenager, it probably won't last long. However, I've thought of myself as being bisexual since I was about 12. But after talking to my brother I've begun to doubt myself and wonder if he was right. I'm so confused - I don't want to doubt my sexuality when I was so sure of it. Please help.

COLEEN SAYS

The teenage years can be a confusing time. It's a time of experimentation and trying to work out who you are and what you like.

However, if you're 100% sure of the person you are, then that's all you need to focus on. When you're a teen, it's hard enough to come out and say you've got your first boyfriend, especially if you have strict or religious parents, so it took guts to discuss your sexuality with your brother.

But you can't stop being who you are to please others and sacrifice your own happiness. Some people will totally accept your sexuality and others won't, but they're the ones who have to deal with it - not you.

Your brother was probably trying to be reassuring or helpful in his own way, but he's ended up confusing you. Trust what your instinct is telling you, but there's no reason to rush into any relationship at your age.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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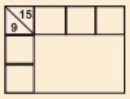
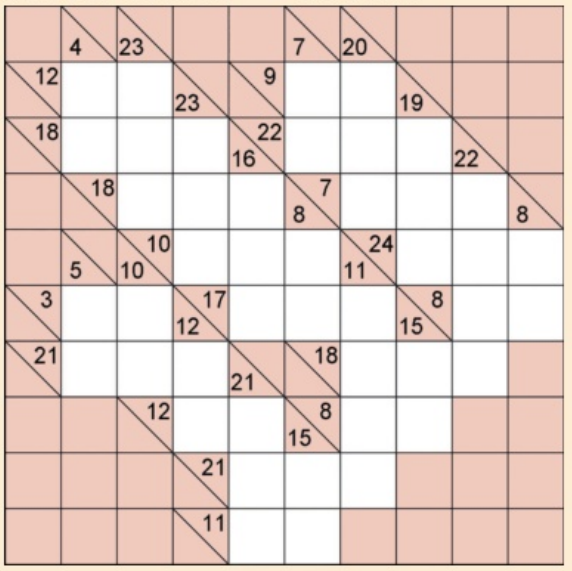
Kakuro

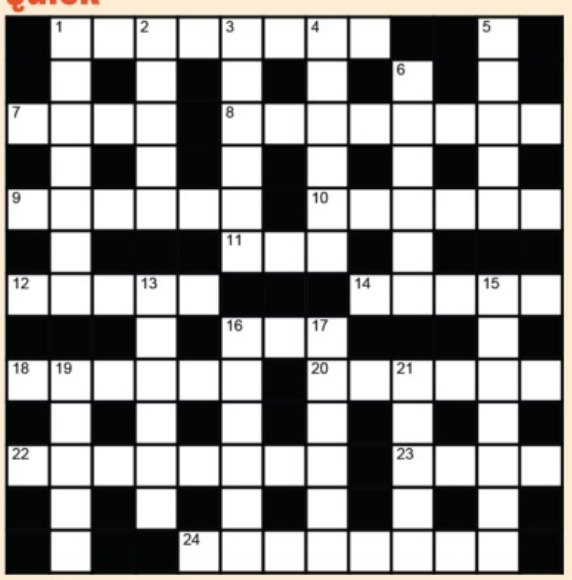


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Come apart (8)
7 Eye part (4)
8 Homages (8)
9 Cave (6)
10 Small parcel (6)
11 Ethiopian prince (3)
12 Confuse (5)
14 Military unit (5)
16 Specialized U.N. agency (3)
18 ___ City: Bangalore of course (6)
20 Man of the cloth (6)
22 A healthy drink (5-3)
23 Cheering words (4)
24 Mining near the surface? (4-4)

DOWN

1 Protected by insurance? (7)
2 Tilted over (5)
3 Writer (6)
4 Economizes (6)
5 Line of people (5)
6 Papal representative (6)
13 Climbing device (6)
15 Mohammed or Jesus Christ (7)
16 Part of foot (6)
17 Consecrate as a priest (6)
19 Fourth month (5)
21 Preposition meaning about (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS G

RZOEIT DWO ICS MV WZZ GZ-WEI BWEZEIT, MFS SNV RFI CR ES EB UCHSN SNV GHELV-WD-VZEW VWHNWHS

Linemaro

Damn, if being beautiful was a crime, you'd be guilty as charged!

Mindchow

You must be the change you wish to see in the world

Joke of the day

Having one child makes you a parent; having two you are a referee

Loop

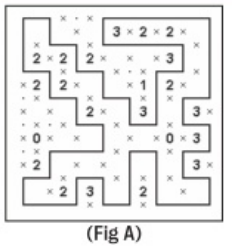
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

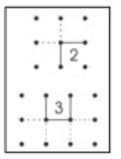
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

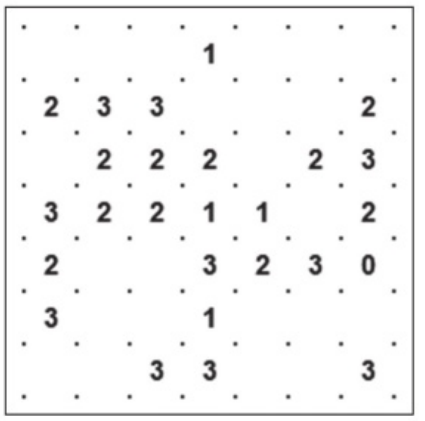
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



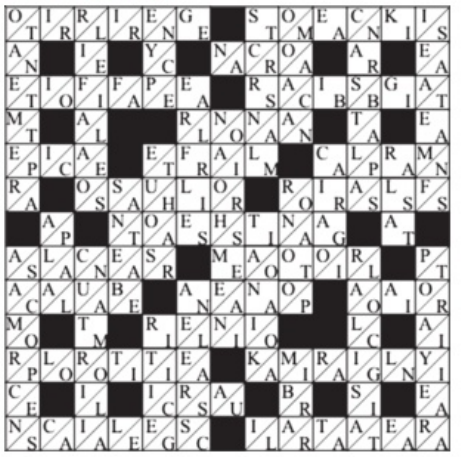
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



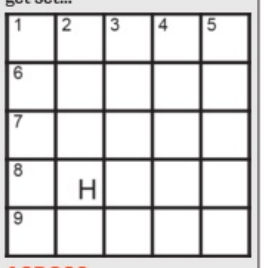
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

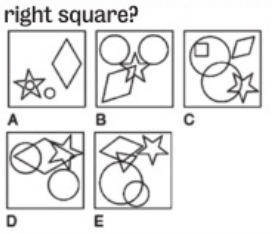
1 Be erg; 6 Niler; 7 Oasis; 8 NHS us; 9 Gees I

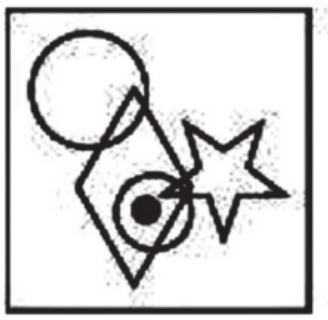
DOWN

1 Slogs; 2 Irish; 3 Seen U; 4 Begin; 5 Saree

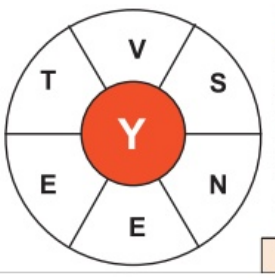
Mensapuzzle

To which of the squares below can a dot be added so that the dot then meets the same conditions as the dot in the right square?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

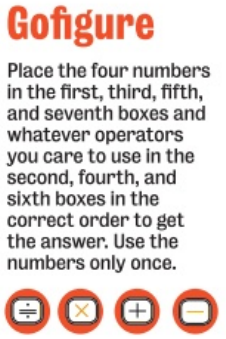
SudokuChallenge

5								9
	4		8	6	9		7	
		9	4		1	2		
	5			7			6	
		7				5		
	6			3			4	
		8	5		4	1		
	7		3	8	2		9	
3								2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



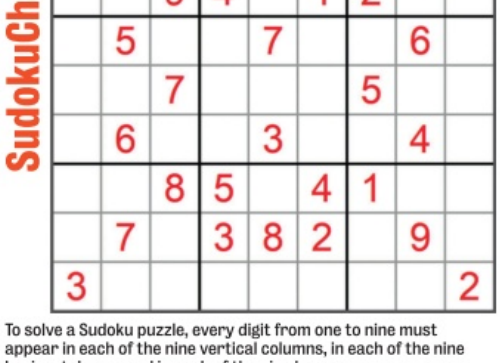
Easy = 5
1 5 5 5

Medium = 60
2 3 7 7

Hard = 82
4 9 9 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



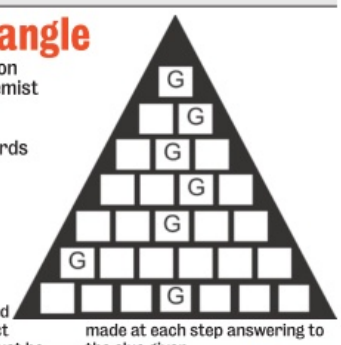
Differences: 1. Spoon is moved. 2. Arm is lower. 3. Frame is thinner. 4. Bottom of shirt is different. 5. Button is lower. 6. There is more food on the plate.

Riddler

Which three-letter word completes the following longer words: ch—ed, f—ace, jo—ey, ret—?

Alpha triangle

1 Gram, abbreviation
2 Silver for the chemist
3 A period of time
4 Wise man
5 Enclosures for birds
6 Mythical trio
7 Freights



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

If sales are this good all month, we can buy two more wheels.
HOT DOGS
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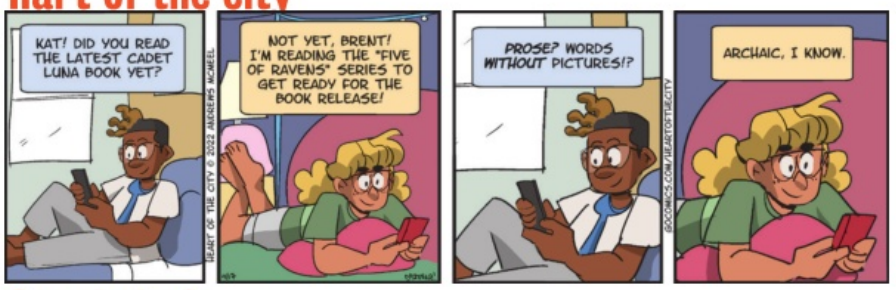
Wayno & Piraro 9-14-22
Dist. by King Features ©2022 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


KAT! DID YOU READ THE LATEST CADET LUNA BOOK YET?
NOT YET, BRENT! I'M READING THE "FIVE OF RAVENS" SERIES TO GET READY FOR THE BOOK RELEASE!
PROSE? WORDS WITHOUT PICTURES!?
ARCHAIC, I KNOW.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

IT CAN'T HURT TO JUST CALL THIS REAL ESTATE AGENT TO SEE WHAT'S WHAT.
FOR SALE
WALKER PROPERTIES
LET'S JUST SEE WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY.
HELLO... THIS IS LOIS FLAGSTON.
BATTUK & DAVIS
9-10

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may prefer gaining knowledge. You may understand the value of intellectual assets. Sometimes you may control your short-temperedness, which may help you to perform your task smoothly .There may be some chances of smooth earnings, which may give you comfort in the workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments in assets. You are likely to spend money for loved ones. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may feel negativity around you. You may find your responsibilities a burden . You may be in a hurry to complete the task given to you. You may make silly mistakes. Your working efficiency may slow down , which may affect your day-to-day work. Your projects may likely be delayed, it may affect your professional life. You are advised to take advice from your elders or consultant , before taking any important decision.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be enthusiastic, you may be more focused, which may speed up your postponed projects. Your subordinates may help you to start a new project, which may give you profit in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of jobs.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today, you may use your creativity in your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. Love birds may likely get some support from their family members for marriage. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your will power may help you to start some new innovations on the work front. You may likely to get a big order in your parental business, which will increase growth in the business in near future. New responsibilities in your job may make you busy. Jobseekers might get a good job. Understanding with the spouse may be improved, which can maintain harmony in the family life.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You may spend your hard earned money buying worthless stuff. You are advised to control your short tempered nature. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise there might be some break up.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may meet some influential person, who may help you in the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of that person. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas into your work or business . You will plan to invest more capital into your business, which may give you financial gains in the near future. In terms of domestic life you will be busy with family get-togethers and social events.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy your work, you may get rewards after your hard work. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind may make you tired. Due to workload, you may not be able to reach some family events.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be satisfied at work. You may plan for a short work related trip. You may also visit to some religious places to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

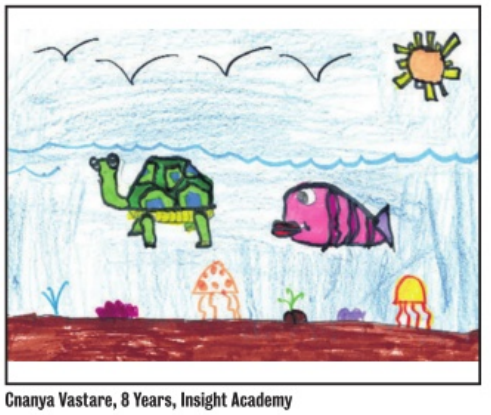
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel dull, it is advised to keep your mind cool, it's a golden rule for you to think twice before any act. You may travel to recover your money, otherwise you may lose your money. You are also advised to avoid going for adventure tours. Students are advised to go for in depth study to get success.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel good, domestic harmony may make you happy. You may meet some influential person to get some benefits in the work front. You may be likely to perform well in your job, you may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes in inherited property may likely settle down.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be healthy. You may be able to focus towards your goals. Your performance may be very good at work, your boss may be happy with you, you may get some important responsibilities at work. You may hear good news in any legal matter. You are likely to have control over your opponents and business rivals.

KIDZONE

Srila Balaraj, 8 Years, Sophia High School



Cnanya Vastare, 8 Years, Insight Academy

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(7 × ?) − 42 ÷ 6(7)
= 49 − 42 ÷ 6 × 7
= 49 − 7×7 = 0

BULL'S EYE
envy, SEVENTY, teensy, teeny

STRIKE OUT

S	C	A	L	E	S		L	A	T	T	E	R		

FAST FIVE

G	R	E	B	E
S	H	U	N	S
O	S	S	I	A
L	I	N	E	R
S	I	E	G	E

RIDDLER
URN churned, furnace, journey, return

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
D: so the dot appears in the diamond and circle only.

QUOTE UNCODE
Flying may not be all plain sailing, but the fun of it is worth the price – Amelia Earhart

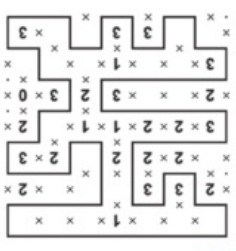
SUDOKU

3	9	4	6	1	7	8	5	2
1	7	5	3	8	2	6	9	4
6	2	8	5	9	4	1	3	7
9	6	2	1	3	5	7	4	8
8	1	7	9	4	6	5	2	3
4	5	3	2	7	8	9	6	1
7	3	9	4	5	1	2	8	6
2	4	1	8	6	9	3	7	5
5	8	6	7	2	3	4	1	9

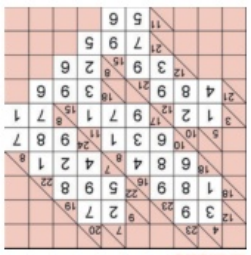
ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, AG, AGE, CAGES, GRACES, CARGOES.

GO FIGURE
Easy
Medium
5 − 5 x 1 + 5 = 5
7 + 2 x 7 − 3 = 60
Hard
9 + 4 x 7 − 9 = 82

LOOP



KAKURO



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Starry abode

B-Town actors who live in other celebrity homes on rent

It's not uncommon to read about celebrities writing fat cheques to purchase their dream homes in Mumbai city. While some actors splurge over Rs 100 crore on their apartments, others chose to rent homes, some that even belong to fellow film industry insiders. Here's a list of actors who live in other celebrity homes on rent. Take a look...

Nushrratt Bharuccha

Nushrratt Bharuccha, who had set her sights on director Vishal Bhardwaj's flat, has finally rented the space near Mithibai College. The actress reportedly wanted to move into the filmmaker's 12th floor swanky house, on lease.

A source told ETimes, "Nushrratt indeed came into Vishal's flat on rent on November 4. Her parents also stay with her. They seem happy. The flat was done up by Vishal and his wife Rekha very well; they really have a great taste in decor."

Jacqueline Fernandez

While reports claimed that Jacqueline Fernandez was looking to buy her love-nest, the actress reportedly moved into Priyanka Chopra's Juhu home, where she has been living there on rent. According to news reports, Jacqueline narrowed down on PeeCee's home which has been vacant since she moved to the US.

Sunny Leone

Before shelling out the big bucks on her luxury Rs 16 crore duplex, Sunny Leone and husband Daniel Weber lived in a rented apartment. The couple reportedly lived in Celina Jaitley's swanky Yari Road penthouse for a few years before investing in their dream home to better suit the needs of their three children.

Kriti Sanon

Kriti Sanon made headlines when she moved into Amitabh Bachchan's duplex flat in Andheri. The actress, who has been on a professional high, reportedly paid a security deposit of Rs 60 lakh and will be paying the house rent of Rs 10 lakh to live in the plush apartment located on the 27th and 28th floors. Bachchan reportedly bought the house in 2020 for Rs 31 crore.

Kim in a 'hard place'

In a matter of days after an outing of comedian Pete Davidson and model Emily Ratajkowski were seen hanging out together, the former's ex Kim Kardashian seems to have not taken it well.

According to a report by E! Online, the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' actress took to her Instagram stories to share a cryptic quote which seemed to give off vibes that she is troubled by the dating rumours of Pete and Emily. "One thing I realized is that everything always ends up working out," it read. "Sometimes even better than you can imagine. Remember this when you feel like you're in a hard place or you feel like you're being challenged the most. Believe in where you're headed. See the bigger picture." Said the quote on Kim's story, which is attributed to author Idil Ahmed.

Kim has never been vocal about her relationship with Davidson. The founder of SKIMS brand, Kim has been engaged with her own divorce proceedings for over a year.

Kim was in a relationship with 'Nah Nah Nah' singer Kanye West for six years before the couple parted ways and filed for divorce in February 2021.

Pete, 29, was spotted with Emily, 31, earlier this month in New York City, as per E! Online. It was at this moment that they both sparked dating speculations.

The rumours fuelled further when the model and 'Gone Girl' actress had reliving moments with the 'Saturday Night Live' comedian at his apartment on the occasion of his birthday.

As per a report by E! Online, Kim had been in a relationship with Pete for nine months. One of their sources cited the split upon their hard-to-maintain and clashing schedules. **-ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Golden chance!

Rachna Inder, Ganesh and Meghana Shetty are part of Triple Riding

Golden Star Ganesh is elated over the success of the trailer for his forthcoming movie Triple Riding. It is said the trailer got over four million views within a short span of its launch.

"I play a different kind of role in Triple Riding. Many of my well-wishers gave their feedback after watching this movie and said this was the first time they are seeing me in such a role," said Ganesh. Appreciating cinematographer Jai Anand, Ganesh said people told him that he looks stunning on the screen. "All the credit must go to cinematographer Jai Anand. There are interesting twists to the story. I am sure the audiences will appreciate those twists. The climax is superb. I thank producer Ram Gopal for bankrolling this movie and director Mahesh Gowda for directing it," Ganesh said.

Director Mahesh Gowda said he was grateful to producer Ram Gopal. "I have to thank all the actors for giving their best. I appeal to movie buffs to support Triple Riding which is expected to be released on November 25," said Gowda.

The song – Yatta Yatta – that released in September has become a huge hit.

Politics for reel

There is no dearth of movies based on politics. The latest in that genre is Prajarajya. Dr Varadaraj DN from Hoskote has bankrolled Prajarajya under Viren Creations banner while Vijay Bhargav debuts as a director with this movie.

"A few incidents in society coaxed me to produce this move. I am of the opinion that every citizen in the country should get medical facilities and quality education. The script of this movie revolves around the education system, health, agriculture and farmers' issues. The title of this movie has a tag – fight for financial freedom. Upendra's movie Upendra is an inspiration for me," said Varadaraj, adding that he wrote the script, screenplay and dialogues for the film too.

Director Vijay Bhargav told BM he used to make short movies and work as an associate for a few directors. "This is my maiden movie as a director. I am grateful to producer Dr Varadaraj for giving me this chance. The shooting was held in Bengaluru, Mysuru and other places for more than 60 days and it is set for release shortly," he said.